027
A3155R2
1954/58

STATE OF ALABAMA
PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE DIVISION
155 STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
64 North Union Street
Montgomery 5, Alabama

REPORT COVERING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1954 - OCTOBER 1, 1958

To the Governor of Alabama:

I have the honor to present a report covering the activities of the Public Library Service Division for the quadrennium 1954-1958.

The years 1954 to 1958 were notable for the tremendous stimulus given to the development and improvement of library service in the state by the initiation of grants from the Library Services Act (Public Law 597, 84th Congress) passed in June, 1956. The first allotment of $40,000 was received in March, 1957. In the second year of the Act, fiscal 1957-1958, Alabama received $139,644, and in the current fiscal year Alabama will receive $161,369, only the first half having been received to date.

During this period four entirely new regional libraries have been developed. They are: Coosa Valley Regional Library, composed of Shelby and St. Clair Counties; Choctawhatchee Regional Library, composed of Dale and Henry Counties; Wheeler Basin Regional Library, composed of Morgan and Limestone Counties; and Cross Trails Regional Library, composed of Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw and Geneva Counties. Two regional libraries have added one or more counties: Lee-Tallapoosa added Coosa County to become the Horseshoe Bend Regional Library which in turn has just added Elmore County; and Choctawhatchee has recently invited Pike County to join it and Pike will do so early in 1959. Substantial aid was given to the old regional libraries, Coffee-Geneva and Covington-Crenshaw, which have since reformed as a single four-county region, and to the Lee-Tallapoosa Regional Library prior to its becoming a new, stronger region. A grant has been made to Walker County as an incipient region.

In the 16 counties now participating, or immediately ready to participate, in regional developments under the Library Services Act, 519,153 people are receiving greatly improved and strenghtened library service. In Elmore and Limestone Counties 67,415 people have public library service available in their counties for the first time, while many others in the rural areas of the other counties have such service readily available to them by bookmobile for the first time.

Altogether, to all of these regions the LSA funds have provided 5 new bookmobiles, 6 professional librarians, 8 clerks and drivers, 2 subprofessional bookmobile librarians, funds for bookmobile operation, much office equipment and furniture, office and book processing supplies, and about $20,000 worth of books. In addition they have benefited, as have all the libraries throughout the state, from the added Field Services from the Division made possible with LSA funds (two Field Representatives in addition to the one previously employed with the State funds, and increased travel funds); from the increased efficiency at the Division made possible by the increased staff (a cataloger, 3 library assistants, and

A3155R2
1954/58

clerical help) and with the purchase of greatly needed office equipment and library furniture; by attendance at workshops, both those conducted by the Division staff and those attended out-of-state; and from some $5,000 worth of books purchased for the Division's Headquarters collection which is available for loan to libraries. From the increased state appropriation, these libraries have also had State Aid in books amounting to $44,000, at the rate of $4,000 per county, granted for each of the first three years of participation in a region.

More should be said about the purchases from these LSA funds which will increase the potentialities of the Division for years to come. Previously limited in equipment to such office machines as typewriters, a Ditto and a mimeograph machine, the Division now has a Multilith and an Addressograph machine, noteworthy inclusions in the "greatly needed office equipment" mentioned above. With these and the move into new quarters we feel as if we had come out of a log cabin into a modern home and had replaced the scythe with a combine.

Another notable event of the four period is the moving of the Public Library Service Division to new quarters in the State Administrative Building in the late fall of 1958. While it is too soon to assess the full effects of these more spacious, attractive, and functionally arranged quarters, the improvement is already being felt by staff and users.

The Division budget has been increased from $108,000 for the year 1953-54 to $187,825 for 1957-58. Part of this increase was to provide for the unusual expenditure of $22,000 for new shelving in the Division's new quarters and for the rental of those quarters. It is still too early to see some of the fruits of these increased funds, but some heartening results are already apparent in the services the Division has been able to give and in library progress throughout the state.

The Division's book stock was increased during the four year period from 157,229 volumes in 1954 to 207,272 volumes in 1958. These quantitative figures do not tell the whole story, however, for many worn and obsolete volumes have been withdrawn and new, up-to-date material added.

During the four years the Division has had financial resources, and has loaned books, given State Aid in allocations for books, and made grants of LSA funds directly to libraries as follows:

	STATE APPROPRIATION TO THE DIVISION	LIBRARY SERVICES ACT ALLOCATION TO STATE	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO DIVISION
1954-55	$110,309.00		$110,309.00
1955-56	108,100.00		108,100.00
1956-57	116,613.00	$ 40,000.00	156,613.00
1957-58	187,825.00	139,644.00	327,469.00
TOTAL	$522,847.00	$179,644.00	$702,491.00

BOOKS LOANED	TO LIBRARIES	TO INDIVIDUALS	TOTAL
1954-55	18,658	2,831	21,489
1955-56	14,958	2,259	17,217
1956-57	23,207	2,610	25,817
1957-58	20,709	2,414	23,123
TOTAL 1954-58	77,532	10,114	87,646

STATE AID	VALUE OF BOOK LOANS	ALLOCATIONS IN BOOKS	LSA GRANTS TO LIBRARIES	TOTAL
1954-55	$43,924.00	$34,600.00		$78,524.00
1955-56	35,782.57	33,000.00		68,782.57
1956-57	55,043.66	28,400.00	$28,299.00	111,742.66
1957-58	51,830.03	54,000.00	87,645.00	193,475.03
TOTAL 1954-58	$186,580.00	$150,000.00	$115,944.00	$452,524.26

Progress has been made in a variety of ways throughout the state during the period. Some of it has undoubtedly been stimulated by the interest generated by the Library Services Act. Public library service of some kind has been established in Autauga, Chambers, Pickens, Russell, St. Clair, and Washington Counties with Library Services Act aid mentioned earlier. All of these counties were without library service in 1954. This cuts the number of counties with no free public library service from 14 to 6. Counties still without free public library service are Butler, Cleburne, Lamar, Lawrence, Lowndes, and Macon.

With the service extended to rural residents in counties previously served only by town libraries, library service has been extended since 1954 to almost 650,000 people in 19 counties who were previously unserved.

The library picture in the state in 1958 as compared with 1954 is as follows:

	1954	1958
Population of Alabama (1950 Census)	3,061,743	3,061,743
Population with library service	**2,169,242**	2,434,361
Population without library service	892,501	627,382
Local Library Income	$773,811.30	$1,352,294.79*
Per capita income for population with library service	.36	.56*
Total Volumes in Public Libraries	1,340,857	1,496,422*

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
LIBRARY

FISCAL YEARS	TO VOLUMES	TO TRANSPORTATION	TOTAL
1954-55	18,572	2,831	21,403
1955-56	14,955	2,555	17,510
1956-57	23,207	2,610	25,817
1957-58	20,299	2,824	23,123
TOTAL 1954-58	77,032	10,114	87,146

FISCAL ATH	VALUE OF BOOK LOANS	ALLOCATIONS TO BOOKS	LSA GRANTS TO LIBRARIES	TOTAL
1954-55	$40,000.00	$34,000.00		$74,000.00
1955-56	35,767.57	33,000.00		68,767.57
1956-57	44,[illegible].00	28,000.00	$39,[illegible].00	111,[illegible].00
1957-58	31,[illegible].03	34,000.00	27,[illegible].02	93,[illegible].03
TOTAL 1954-58	$[illegible],[illegible].00	$130,000.00	$[illegible],[illegible].02	$[illegible],[illegible].25

Progress has been made in a variety of ways throughout the state during the period. Much of it has undoubtedly been stimulated by the interest generated by the Library Services Act. Public library service of some kind has been established in Bibb, Coosa, Fayette, Franklin, Hale, Clay, and Washington Counties with library services Act and county-wide service. All of these counties were without library service in 1954. This cuts the number of counties with no free public library service from 14 to 6. Counties still without free public library service are Butler, Elmore, Lamar, Marshall, Randolph, and Russell.

With the service extended to rural residents in counties previously served only by town libraries, library service has been extended since 1954 to almost 600,000 people in 32 counties who were previously unserved.

The library picture in the state in 1958 as compared with 1954 is as follows:

	1954	1958
Population of Alabama (1950 Census)	3,061,743	3,061,743
Population with library service	2,169,246	2,476,301
Population without library service	892,501	685,382
Local Library Income	$[illegible],811.30	$1,352,[illegible].[illegible]
Per capita income for population with library service	.34	.[illegible]
Total Volumes in Public Libraries	1,340,832	1,[illegible],[illegible]

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

	1954	1958
Per capita volumes for population with library service	.62 volumes	.61 volumes*
Total Volumes in Public Libraries and the Public Library Service Division	1,499,086	1,703,694*
Per capita volumes for total population	.49 volumes	.56 volumes*
Circulation in Public Libraries	5, 351,432	7,545,723*
Per capita circulation for population with library service	2.5 volumes	3.1 volumes*
Regional Libraries with bookmobile	5 serving 10 counties**	7 serving 19 counties
County Libraries with bookmobiles	10**	10**
Municipal Libraries outside of county or regional systems	50	53
County Libraries without bookmobiles	7	13

With the entry of Pike County into a regional library giving service to the rural areas by bookmobile the number of "county libraries without bookmobiles" will be diminished. While the desire of such libraries is on the credit side, the number of rural residents reached by these libraries without real means of taking service to the rural areas is far short of genuine county library service. Groundwork has been laid in at least five more counties for them to join regional libraries, and funds have been set aside for them if they qualify for a Library Services Act grant.

During the four year period 2 new libraries or branches were opened,** and the Atmore Library became a free public library in the summer of 1958. Twelve buildings for libraries were built, ground was broken for another, and 30 libraries were given new quarters in civic buildings or were remodeled or air-conditioned during the period.** Twelve new bookmobiles were purchased during the period,** all but one being custom built vehicles. This makes a total of 23 bookmobiles now running for public libraries in the state. Eight professional librarians have been added to the staffs of public libraries, and the Public Library Service Division has increased its professional staff from 3 to 7. Two new Friends of the Library groups have been formed, one in Gadsden, the other in Huntsville, both in 1958. The Friends were instrumental in bringing about a bond issue voted

*Note: These 1958 figures are unfortunately not complete, and therefore not really comparable with the 1954 figures. Reports have not been received from all libraries (Akron, Alexander City, Brewton, Cowikee, Evergreen, Fairfield, Helen Keller, Jemison, Sumter County, Pike County, and Walker County). No report on circulation came from Moundville, Wetumpka, and York Public Libraries.

** See lists attached.

in 1958 for a library building in Auburn; the Friends in Huntsville helped the Library Board there secure a Survey of the Huntsville Library by Mrs. Gretchen Schenk in the summer of 1958.

Not only funds, but the efforts of many people are necessary to accomplish this improvement in the library picture in Alabama. Important among these people are the members of the State Executive Board who set the policies under which all the activities of the Division take place. Members of this Board are appointed by the Governor for terms of five years, and there have been a number of changes in the membership during the four years. Members as of December 31, 1958 are:

	Term expiring
Mrs. J. U. Reaves, Mobile, Chairman	October 3, 1959
Mrs. Bernice Youngblood, Jasper, Vice-Chairman	October 3, 1960
Mr. Noel R. Beddow, Montgomery	October 3, 1961
Mr. Edward Gene Gibbons, Butler	October 3, 1962
Mrs. Elsie Crain, Guntersville	October 3, 1963
Mr. Peter Brannon, Director, Dept. of Archives & History	ex officio

Others serving as members of the Executive Board during the quadrennium were:

	Term expiring
The Honorable Robert G. Kendall, Evergreen, Chairman; resigned effective March 1, 1955; Mr. Beddow appointed April 23, 1956 to complete the term.	October 3, 1956
Mrs. Ed Justice, Montgomery	October 3, 1957
The Honorable Emory Solomon, Headland, resigned effective March 1, 1955; followed by Mr. Morris and Mrs. Ferrell.	October 3, 1958
Mr. Johnny Morris, Elkmont, appointed December 27, 1955 to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Solomon; transferred to the Milk Control Board.	October 3, 1958
Mrs. F. L. Ferrell, Mentone, appointed November 9, 1956 to fill unexpired term of Mr. Morris.	October 3, 1958
Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, Director, Dept. of Archives and History; retired March 1, 1955.	ex officio

Except for the period prior to March 1955 when she was Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Reaves has served as Chairman of the Board during the entire quadrennium.

Board members have evidenced deep interest in library development not only by attendance at Board meetings but by taking an active part in library association

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2023 with funding from
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Alternates

https://archive.org/details/annualreport1954alab

activities. Mr. Beddow is Vice-Chairman and Mrs. Youngblood Second Vice-Chairman of the Trustee Section of the Alabama Library Association. Mr. Beddow is serving as Membership Chairman for Alabama for the American Association of Library Trustees of the American Library Association as well as Chairman of the Nominating Committee of that organization. Mrs. Youngblood is serving as a member of the committee of the Alabama Library Association Trustee Section appointed to plan a workshop or conference for library trustees. Mrs. Ferrell and Mrs. Youngblood represented the Division at the 1957 Annual Conference of the American Library Association; Mr. Beddow attended the 1958 Mid-Winter Conference of the American Library Association; and Mr. Beddow, Mrs. Ferrell, and Mr. Gibbons attended the Trustee Workshop and the Trustee's meetings held in conjunction with the 1958 Annual Conference of the American Library Association.

Miss Evelyn Day Mullen was the Director of the Division during the first two and a half years of the quadrennium. She resigned, effective March 1, 1957, to accept a position as Library Extension Specialist in the U. S. Office of Education, Library Services Branch. Mrs. Gretchen Schenk of Summerdale, Alabama, served a second time as Interim Director of the Division. Other notable changes in the staff of the Division included the resignation of Mrs. Leo B. Roberts on May 15, 1958. Mrs. Roberts had been a member of the staff since 1945, serving first as Headquarters Librarian and more recently as Assistant Director. Miss Lucile Durkin held the position of Headquarters Librarian from June 15, 1958 to August 22, 1958. Mr. Joe D. Langston was appointed to this position on November 17, 1958. Mrs. Elizabeth Parks Beamguard was appointed Field Representative on January 1, 1956 following the resignation of Miss Shirley Brother on November 1, 1955. Mrs. Beamguard had worked with the Division before from October 1, 1954 to January 1955. Mrs. Elinor Arsic came to the Division in September 1957 as a second Field Representative. A third Field Representative was added in October 1957, the position first being held by Miss Ethel Peerson, who left the Division in June 1958 to become the Librarian of the Muscle Shoals Regional Library, and from June to September by Mrs. Mozelle Cummings. This position is vacant at present. The Division has had a full-time cataloger for the first time in the person of Mrs. Ruth R. Field, who was appointed May 1, 1957. At the present time the Division staff is composed of 7 professionals, one of whom works only part time, and 6 clerical or secretarial staff members, compared with the 1954 staff of 3 professionals and 3 clerical or secretarial staff members.

In-service training is important in any educational institution. The Division conducted two one-day workshops in 1957 on the workings of the Alabama State Plan under the Library Services Act, one for librarians, and the other for trustees and interested citizens. In 1958 the Division staff conducted a series of seven workshops in different parts of the state for community librarians on the essentials of librarianship. In the summer of 1957 six local librarians from Alabama attended a two week in-service training program under theauspices of the University of Mississippi taught by Mrs. Schenk.

One or more members of the Division staff have been able to attend the following important national or regional conferences or institutes, as well as the usual association meetings: Institute on State Plans under the Library Services Act, Rutgers University; 22d Annual Conference of the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago; Work Simplication Conference conducted by the Louisiana State Library and the Louisiana State University School of Library Science, Baton Rouge; Southern Public Library Workshop sponsored by the Florida State University

Library School, Tallahassee; in 1957; Institute on State Field Consultant Services, Chicago; Southern States Work Conference, Daytona Beach; Southern Regional Library Institute, Tallahassee; Institute on State and Regional Library Planning, Columbia University, New York; Assembly of State Librarians, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.; in 1958.

Looking back over the four year period the growth seems phenomenal. It is still necessary, however, to repeat the statement made in the 1954 report, "Local library incomes have increased, but chiefly in the older, well-organized libraries. Weakness in local libraries apparent to the Division are: shortage of library trained or otherwise well qualified personnel due chiefly to low salaries; and insufficient book stock to take care of growth as well as to replace volumes worn out in service." Another event of national importance in the library field which occurred during the period was the appearance of the new Public Library Standards; none of our libraries in Alabama even approach the standards set by this national measuring-stick. The need for professionally trained librarians is especially acute because of the potentialities opened by the Library Services Act. It is ironic that the demand stimulated in part by the Library Services Act for professionally qualified librarians throughout the country has made it difficult for the Division and local librarians to compete for well qualified people, even with our somewhat increased salary ranges. Other problems that haunt us, even while considering the great strides forward made in the last four years, are the fact that half of the Division's staff is paid from Library Services Act funds, and that with the expiration of the Library Services Act aid the libraries established with its help must secure substantially increased local support.

It is fitting to repeat another sentence or two from the 1954 report: "The new Director is most grateful for the cordial welcome that she has received from libraries in the state and from the State Offices. It takes a while for a new person to learn the whole state library picture and then start constructive planning for better library development." I have been fortunate to have had much of the planning soundly done by my predecessors. The progress made in the last four years, especially that which has been made possible by the Library Services Act funds, seems a good beginning toward the overall good library service for the whole population of the state dreamed of by them, and by us.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Wheelock Reed
Director

December 31, 1958

Appendix I

Regional Libraries with Bookmobiles:

1954 Library	Counties Served	1958 Library	Counties Served
Coffee-Geneva	Coffee, Geneva	Choctawhatchee	Dale, Henry, (in 1959 - Pike)
Covington-Crenshaw	Covington, Crenshaw	Coosa Valley	St. Clair, Shelby
Cullman-Winston	Cullman, Winston	Cross Trails (2)	Coffee, Covington Crenshaw, Geneva
Lee-Tallapoosa	Lee, Tallapoosa	Cullman-Winston	Cullman, Winston
Muslce Shoals	Colbert, Lauderdale	Horseshoe Bend (in 1959 - 2)	Coosa, Elmore Lee Tallapoosa
		Muscle Shoals	Colbert, Lauderdale
		Wheeler Basin	Limestone, Morgan

Other Libraries with Bookmobiles:

1954	1958
Anniston Public Library	Birmingham Public Library (2)
Birmingham Public Library	Anniston Public Library
Calhoun County Library	Calhoun County Library
Dale County Library	Fayette County Library
Henry County Library	Houston Memorial Library
Houston Memorial Library	Huntsville-Madison County Library
Jefferson County Library	Jefferson County Library (2)
Fayette County Library	Marengo County Library
Huntsville-Madison County Library	Mobile Public Library (2)
Mobile Public Library	Montgomery Public Library
Montgomery County Library	Montgomery County Library
Tuscaloosa County Library	Phenix City-Russell County Library
*Clarke County Library	Walker County Library

New Libraries Opened:

LaFayette Pilot Club Public Library
St. Calir County Library
Aliceville Public Library
Attalla Public Library

Washington County Library (re-activated)
Prattville Public Library
Phenix City Public Library
Wetumpka Public Library
Coosa Valley Regional Library
Horseshoe Bend Regional Library
Wheeler Basin Regional Library
Hartselle Public Library
Choctawhatchee Regional Library
Cross Trails Regional Library
Prichard Negro Library

Springville Public Library
Montevallo Public Library
Rockford Public Library
Monte Sano Branch, Huntsville Public Library

Calvary Hill Library (for Negroes) - a branch of the Huntsville Public Library

* Operating bookmobile loaned by Public Library Service Division

Appendix II

New Library Buildings:

Four branches in Birmingham
Toulminville Branch, Mobile
Dale County War Memorial Library, Ozark
Fayette County Library
Robertsdale Public Library
Friedman Library, Tuscaloosa
Branch for Negroes, Anniston
Monroe County Library, Monroeville
Enterprise Public Library

Bond issues passed for new buildings:

Montgomery Public Library (ground broken) and Negro branch

Auburn Public Library

New Quarters, or Remodelled or Improved Quarters:

Demopolis Public Library (Wing in City Hall, air-conditioned, and standard shelving)
Franklin County Library (In new Courthouse)
Homewood Public Library (Air-conditioned)
Moundville Public Library
Montgomery County Library (In new Courthouse)
Coosa Valley Regional Library (In Pell City City Hall)
Opp Public Library
Columbiana Public Library
Albertville Public Library
Irondale Public Library
Monte Sano Branch, Huntsville-Madison County Library
LaFayette Pilot Club Public Library
Vincent Public Library
Blountsville Public Library
Ashland Public Library
Jacksonville Public Library
Haleyville Public Library (In City Hall)
Sumter County Library
Andalusia Public Library
Shelby County Library
Brewton Public Library
Luverne Public Library
Houston Memorial Library, Dothan (Redecorated, new shelving, new asphalt tile floor, air-conditioned)
Brantley Public Library (new shelving)
Akron Public Library
Chickasaw Public Library
Florala Public Library (new shelving)
Decatur Public Library (redecorated and added space)
Tarrant Public Library (Air-conditioned)
Sansom Public Library (Air-conditioned)

Appendix III

New Bookmobiles Purchased:

Muscle Shoals Regional Library
Marengo County Library
Covington-Crenshaw Regional Library
Coffee-Geneva Regional Library (with LSA funds)
Coosa Valley Regional Library (with LSA funds)
Mobile Public Library
Birmingham Public Library
Houston Memorial Library
Phenix City-Russell County Library
Wheeler Basin Regional Library (with LSA funds)
Choctawhatchee Regional Library (with Lsa funds)
Walker County Library (with LSA funds)